

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /048 W

-----047611 091304Z /42

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FM AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 491

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

SAMSO LOS ANGELES AFS CA

C O N F I D E N T I A L VICTORIA 467

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, SE, US

SUBJECT: PROPOSED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING USAF
TRACKING STATION

1. A QUESTION HAS ARISEN WITH RESPECT TO THE HANDLING OF A DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) PREPARED BY USAF AND INTENDED TO BE AN IMPLEMENTING AGREEMENT UNDER TERMS OF THE FORMAL GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT TRACKING STATION AGREEMENT. THE DRAFT, WHICH WAS SUBMITTED DIRECTLY TO THE GOS BY TRACKING STATION COMMANDER HERE, IS ENTITLED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES AND THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE.

2. CHARGE RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL AUGUST 8 FROM DAVID THOMAS, ASSISTANT TO PRESIDENT RENE WITH RESPONSIBILITIES FOR MATTERS NOT FALLING NEATLY WITHIN PORTFOLIOS OF ESTABLISHED MINISTRIES. THOMAS SAID HE HAD RECEIVED LENGTHY DRAFT MOU UNDER COVER OF AUGUST 2 LETTER FROM TRACKING STATION COMMANDER. HE EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT THIS KIND OF COMMUNICATION HAD BEEN SENT DIRECTLY TO GOS BY TRACKING STATION COMMANDER, RATHER THAN BY EMBASSY. FURTHERMORE, HE QUESTIONED PROPRIETY OF MOU BETWEEN SOVEREIGN GOVERNMENT ON ONE HAND, AND WHAT IS ONLY ENTITY OF GOVERNMENT (USAF) ON OTHER. CHARGE PROMISED TO LOOK INTO MATTER AND
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TO GET BACK TO GOS AS SOON AS PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS COULD BE SORTED OUT WITHIN U.S. GOVERNMENT. IN MEANTIME, THOMAS WAS ASKED NOT RPT NOT TO TAKE ACTION ON TRACKING STATION COMMANDER'S LETTER AND DRAFT MOU.

3. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH TRACKING STATION COMMANDER, CHARGE WAS TOLD THAT DRAFT MOU HAD BEEN CLEARED FOR

PRESENTATION TO GOS BY USAF GENERAL COUNSEL. COMMANDER DID NOT KNOW IF STATE DEPARTMENT CLEARANCE HAD BEEN SOUGHT. HE SAID HE WAS QUITE CERTAIN THAT AT SOME POINT IN THE PREPARATORY PROCESS GREG MATTSON HAD SEEN THE DOCUMENT, BUT HE COULD NOT RECALL WHEN. EMBASSY WAS NOT SENT COPY OF DRAFT MOU OR AUGUST 2 LETTER, TRACKING STATION COMMANDER SAID, BECAUSE MATTER WAS AT INTERMEDIARY STAGE NOT REQUIRING EMBASSY INVOLVEMENT.

4. EMBASSY IS WELL AWARE THAT GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT UMBRELLA AGREEMENTS ARE OFTEN SUPPLEMENTED BY IMPLEMENTING AGREEMENTS ENTERED INTO BY RESPECTIVE AGENCIES OR SERVICES. THIS PARTICULAR ONE, WHICH PURPOSE IS TO SPECIFY BOUNDARIES OF AREAS USED BY TRACKING STATION AND TO CLARIFY OTHER MATTERS PERTAINING TO PRESENCE AND OPERATION OF THE TRACKING STATION, SEEMS SUSCEPTIBLE TO HANDLING IN THIS MANNER. IF CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY THOMAS HAVE MERIT, EMBASSY BELIEVES GOS SENSITIVITIES COULD BE ACCOMMODATED BY A FORMULATION OF DRAFT MOU WHICH PLACES USG AND GOS ON EQUAL FOOTING. ONE SUCH FORMULATION MIGHT BE TO SET UP THE IMPLEMENTING AGREEMENT TO BE BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES AND THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE. WHEN READY, THE AGREEMENT MIGHT THEN BE SIGNED JOINTLY BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND BY AMBASSADOR LE MELLE.

5. COPIES OF DRAFT MOU OBTAINED BY EMBASSY AUGUST 8 FORWARDED
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BY POUCH TO DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY NAIROBI.

6. PLEASE ADVISE.
FELDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: TRACKING STATIONS, AVIATION AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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